Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A vehicle sharing system, comprising:

at least one port including a parking space and a terminal for accepting a request to use a vehicle; and

a control center including a computer unit for processing said request and allocating a vehicle based on an estimated distance and time duration of an intended trip indicated in said request ~~to each request;~~

~~wherein said request includes an estimated distance and time duration of an intended trip~~.

2. (Original) A vehicle sharing system, according to claim 1, wherein said terminal includes a display of a map of a serviced area, and said estimated distance of an intended trip is indicated by selection of a zone defined in said map.

3. (Original) A vehicle sharing system, according to claim 2, wherein each shared vehicle is provided with a GPS which provides location information to a vehicle operator according to the selection of the zone when making the request.

4. (Original) A vehicle sharing system. according to claim 1, wherein said terminal includes a display device and is programmed to display the identity of the allocated vehicle.

5. (Currently amended) A vehicle allocation system for allocating one or more vehicles from a fleet of vehicles to one or more users, the vehicle allocation system comprising:

one or more ports at geographically remote locations relative to each other, each port having a user interface terminal for receiving user-input information;

at least one central station computer system coupled for communication with the user interface terminal at each port for receiving user-input information from any of said user interface terminals, wherein said at least one central station computer system is programmed to select and allocate a vehicle from the fleet in response to receiving user-input information from a user, said selection being based on a destination port and the received user-input information, wherein the received user-input comprises a desired time duration regarding the user's intended trip.

6. (Original) A system as recited in claim 5, wherein each user-interface terminal comprises a display device for displaying a map to the user and a user-display interface for receiving user-selected map locations corresponding to locations on the displayed map from a user.

7. (Original) A system as recited in claim 5, wherein each user-interface terminal comprises:

a computer programmed to control the display device to display a map with at least one of predefined zones and map locations; and

a user interface device for allowing a user to select at least one of the predefined zones and locations.

8. (Original) A system as recited in claim 7, wherein said user interface device comprises at least one of a touch-screen, a keyboard, or a cursor controller.

9. (Original) A system as recited in claim 5, wherein each port includes a display device to display the identity of the allocated vehicle to a user that inputs request information.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) A vehicle allocation system as recited in claim 5, wherein said user-input information comprises distance information corresponding to a distance which the user desires to travel with one of the vehicles from the fleet of vehicles.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A vehicle allocation system as recited in claim [[10]] 5, wherein said user-input information further includes destination port information for identifying the ~~port at which the user desires as a~~ destination port and wherein said ~~time of use information~~ desired time duration ~~and said distance information~~ comprises information corresponding to the time ~~and distance~~ beyond the time ~~and distance~~ required to reach the destination port.

14. (Currently amended) A vehicle allocation system as recited in claim 11, wherein said user-input information further includes destination port information for identifying the ~~port at which the user desires as a~~ destination port and wherein said ~~time of use information~~ desired time duration and said distance information comprise information corresponding to the time and distance beyond the time and distance required to reach the destination port.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) A vehicle allocation system as recited in claim 5, wherein the vehicles in the fleet of vehicles are electric powered and each vehicle defines a state of charge (SOC)at any given time, the vehicle allocation system further comprising:

a plurality of vehicle computer systems associated on a one-to-one basis with the vehicles from the pool of vehicles, each vehicle computer system including means for detecting the SOC of its associated vehicle and for communicating a detected SOC to said at least one central station computer;

wherein said at least one central station computer system is programmed to further base the selection of a vehicle on the detected SOCs of any vehicles located within the VSG of a port from which user-input information is received.

17. (Original) A vehicle allocation system as recited in claim 5, wherein:

each port has a vehicle search group (VSG)in which more than one and less than all of the vehicle from the fleet may be located at any given time; and

said central station computer is programmed to select and allocate a vehicle from the VSG of the port from which user-input information is received.

18. (Original) A system as recited in claim 17, wherein each port includes a vehicle parking facility at which one or more vehicles may be parked at any given time and the VSG of a given port includes vehicles parked at a parking facility at the port.

19. (Original) A system as recited in claim 18, wherein the VSG of a given port further includes vehicles due to arrive at the port within a preset time period.

20. (Currently amended) A method for allocating one or more vehicles from a fleet of vehicles to one or more users, the method comprising:

providing at least one port terminal, each having a user interface for receiving vehicle requests from users;

receiving a request for a vehicle at one of said port terminals from one of said users, said request including user-input information;

communicating the user-input information to a central computer system;

selecting a vehicle from the fleet and allocating the vehicle to the request, said selection being based, at least in part, on a destination port and the user-input information regarding the user's intended trip received at that port terminal, wherein the user-input information comprises a desired time duration.

21. (Original) A method as recited in claim 20, wherein said step of providing at least one port terminal comprises locating a plurality of port terminals at geographically remote locations relative to each other, wherein each port terminal is coupled for communication with the central computer system.

22. (Original) A method as recited in claim 20, wherein said step of receiving a request for a vehicle comprises:

displaying a map to the user; and

receiving user-selected map locations corresponding to locations on the displayed map through a user-interface associated with the displayed map.

23. (Original) A method as recited in claim 20, wherein said step of receiving a request for a vehicle comprises:

displaying a map with at least one of predefined zones and map locations; and

receiving user-selected zone or map locations through a user interface device.

24. (Original) A method as recited in claim 23, wherein said user interface device comprises at least one of a touch-screen, a keyboard, or a cursor controller.

25. (Original) A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising the step of displaying the identity of a selected vehicle on a display device at the port terminal, to inform the user of the selected vehicle.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Original) A method as recited in claim 20, wherein said user-input information comprises distance information corresponding to a distance which the user desires to travel with one of the vehicles from the fleet.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim [[26]] 20, wherein said user-input information further includes destination port information for identifying the ~~port at which the user desires as a~~ destination port and wherein said ~~time of use information~~ desired time duration ~~and said distance information~~ comprises information corresponding to the time ~~and distance~~ beyond the time ~~and distance~~ required to reach the destination port.

30. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 27, wherein said user-input information further includes destination port information for identifying the ~~port at which the user desires as a~~ destination port and wherein said ~~time of use information~~ desired time duration and said distance information comprise information corresponding to the time and distance beyond the time and distance required to reach the destination port.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Original) A method as recited in claim 20, wherein the vehicles in the fleet of vehicles are electric powered and each vehicle defines a state of charge (SOC)at any given time, the method further comprising detecting the SOC of vehicles in the fleet of vehicles and wherein said step of selecting a vehicle based on the user-input information received at the port terminal comprises further basing the selection on the detected SOCs of the vehicles.

33. (Original) A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising:

defining a vehicle search group (VSG)for the port terminal at which user-input information is received from a user, wherein more than one and less than all of the vehicle from the fleet may be located in the VSG at any given time;

wherein said step of selecting a vehicle from the fleet comprises selecting a vehicle from the VSG of the port at which user-input information is received from a user.

34. (Original) A method as recited in claim 33, wherein the VSG of any given port terminal includes vehicles parked at a parking facility at the port terminal.

35. (Original) A method as recited in claim 33, wherein the VSG of any given port terminal further includes vehicles due to arrive at the port terminal within a preset time period.